

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 2, 3, 6-10 and 14 have been amended. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled. Claims 15 and 16 have been added. Thus, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 6-16 will be pending herein.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-14 while holding claims 4, 9 and 10 to be allowable. In view of this, Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 6-9 and 14 while adding new claims 15 and 16, as per attached here.

Amended independent claim 1 now incorporates the limitations of original claim 4 held allowable by the Examiner. However, amended claim 1 incorporates only part of the limitations of original claim 2 and 3 though original claim 4 depends from original claim 3 which in turn depends from original claim 2. This is because original claims 2 and 3 themselves were rejected over the prior art, so that original claim 4 is considered allowable due to the limitations of that claim alone, but not due to the limitations of original claims 2 and 3. Therefore, amended claim 1 is believed to be allowable for the same reason as original claim 4 is allowable, together with dependent claims 2, 3 and 6-13.

Claim 14 is amended similarly to claim 1, and is allowable for the same reason.

New claim 15 and 16 correspond substantially to original claims 9 and 10, respectively, held allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, new claims 15 and 16 are believed to be allowable for the same reason as original claims 9 and 10 are allowable.

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In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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